IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please add the Abstract of the Disclosure currently of record at the end of the Specification as follows.

Abstract

[PROBLEMS] To provide an image compression method capable of performing compression with different image qualities within an image. [MEANS FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS] In a mosaic processing unit (16), area division means (130) divides input image data into a plurality of filtering areas and at least some of the filtering areas are subjected to unification processing for each of the filtering areas by a filtering unit (131). On the other hand, a JPEG encoder (17) divides the image data after the mosaic processing into a plenty of rectangular block areas and each of the block areas is subjected to the DCT processing and quantization processing. Here, the filtering area consists of adjacent one or more than one sets of rectangular areas consisting of two or more pixels obtained by equally dividing the aforementioned block area by 2n (n is a natural number).

MKM/smt